	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/240,919	HENDERSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	AJIT G. PATEL	2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *3/15/2006*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *29,31--37,47-49,55-59,63,72-83 renumbered 1-29 respectively*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    Ajit Patel
    Primary Examiner

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some*   c)☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a)☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1)☐ hereto or 2)☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b)☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Vincent Anderson on 6/14/2006.

2.   The application has been amended as follows: The following claims has been

amended.

47.   (**Currently Amended**) A system for filtering packets comprising:

a packet buffer for storing packets;

a protocol element locator for indicating a protocol element in a packet;

a filtering database comprising layered tables of rules, each rule table applying to

a respective protocol element of a packet and comprising the protocol element locator,

~~and at least one rule~~ **a default rule and zero or more additional filtering rules** to be

applied to the protocol element in the packet; and

a rule evaluator having a first input coupled to the packet buffer for using the

protocol element locator to determine a protocol element from the packet and for

applying at least one rule table to the protocol element.

55.   (**Currently Amended**) A method for filtering packets in a system comprising a

filtering database containing layered tables of rule tables, the method comprising the

steps of:

selecting a protocol element from a packet;

accessing a unique rule table in said layered tables of rule tables corresponding

to the selected protocol element; said rule table comprising ~~at least one filtering rule~~ **a**

default rule, zero or more additional filtering rules, and a protocol element locator; and

applying the ~~at least one filtering rule~~ default rule and zero or more additional filtering rules and the protocol element locator of the unique rule table to the selected protocol element.

57.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55 wherein the step of applying the ~~at least one filtering rule~~ default rule and zero or more additional filtering rules comprises the substep of:

determining whether the selected protocol element is less than or equal to an upper bound.

58.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55 wherein the step of applying the ~~at least one filtering rule~~ default rule and zero or more additional filtering rules comprises the substep of:

determining whether the selected protocol element is ~~great~~ greater than or equal to a lower bound.

63.   (Currently Amended) A system for modifying a filtering database comprising:

a packet prototype for determining a location to be modified in the filtering database, the packet prototype comprising at least one protocol element descriptor having a default rule flag pointing to a default rule, an upper bound and a lower bound, wherein said lower bound and said upper bound are used to point to a location in the filtering database, and

a filtering engine for receiving the packet prototype from an external software source and for modifying the location determined by the packet prototype.

The claim 64 Has been canceled

72.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for filtering packets comprising:

a plurality of protocol element locators, each protocol element locator ~~selects~~ **having an offset and a mask for selecting** one of a plurality of protocol elements from a packet;

a plurality of rule tables, each rule table corresponding to a respective protocol element; and

a rules database implemented in a storage medium having a default rule and a filtering action for each rule table.

3.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AJIT G. PATEL whose telephone number is 571-272-3140. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-SATURDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on 571-272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AP

Ajit Patel
Primary Examiner